REMARKS

This Rule 312 Amendment is being submitted to eliminate the redundant words "of a kind" from claim 7, to improve the grammar of the claim. No new matter is added.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Appellants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

NOBRIS, McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile no. 703-872-9306 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Hon. Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 28, 2004.

William C. Gerstenzang Date December 28, 2004